

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0570/167379.01
Application No.: 09/997,531
Office Action Dated: June 8, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS

The undersigned affirms the telephone election of the Group I claims (claim 1-19) without traverse. Thus, by way of this amendment applicants have requested cancellation of the Group II and III claims (claims 20-32) without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Additionally, as to the Group I claims, the Examiner has objected to claims 10-12, but has indicated that those claims recite allowable subject matter. Thus, applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and 13-19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and have amended claims 10 and 11 to put those claims into independent form. (Additionally, as part of the amendment to claim 10, applicants have corrected a typographical error in the spelling of the word "node.") Claim 12 is dependent on claim 11; since claim 11 is now in allowable form, claim 12 is no longer dependent on a rejected base claim, and thus applicants request that the objection to claim 12 be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that this case is now in condition for allowance, and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in the next Office Action.

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